

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, beginning on line 8, and ending on page 7, line 6, with the following:

Referring to FIG. 2, there is shown a simplified flow chart illustrating the series of steps involved in carrying out an animal identification and security [system] system and method in accordance with the principles of the present invention. At step 30, a request is received from a new client,[or member] or animal owner, to mark an animal with coded indicia [uniquely identifying] for uniquely identifying: the client as the owner of the animal, the residence or location of the animal's owner, the type and identity of the specific animal being marked, and the origin of the animal. The request received in step 30 may also come from an animal owner already registered in the system who would like to register additional animals in the system.

The first coded indicia 12 is comprised of a combination of alphanumeric characters identifying the state and county of residence or location of the owner. For example, the first two characters of the first coded indicia 12 are comprised of a two letter abbreviation of the state in which the owner resides or is located. More specifically, the first two characters of the first coded indicia 12 for an Indiana resident are "IN", while the first two characters for an Illinois resident are "IL". The next two characters in the first coded indicia 12 are in the form of a number representing the county of residence or location of the owner within a given state. All states make use of a numerical system for designating each county within that state. An example of a numerical listing employed by the state of Indiana for counties in that state is shown in Table I. For example, the first four characters in the first coded indicia 12 for a resident of Porter

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County in Indiana would be "IN64". Finally, a last set of characters in the first coded indicia 12 identifies the ranch or farm of the owner within the designated state and county. A "slash" separates the county designation number and the ranch or farm designation number. As each new owner is registered, a number is assigned to that owner's ranch or farm. Thus, [a complete first] coded indicia for a new owner residing in Porter County, Indiana might be represented as "IN64/201", where the number 201 indicates that the client resides or is located on ranch or farm number 201 within Porter County, Indiana.

Please delete the paragraph on page 11, beginning on line 1 and ending on line 7.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, beginning on line 8, and ending on page 12, line 2, with the following:

After a request is received from a new or existing client at step 30, the next step 32 involves a client signing a statement to the effect that the animal, or animals, to be registered and marked is the property of the client. This statement would preferably be in the form of an affidavit made under oath before a notary public or other person of authority. The next step 34 in the inventive process is to determine the client's state and county of residence or location and the client's ranch/farm identifying number. The client's state and county of residence or location is assigned an alphanumeric code as described above, while the client's ranch/farm may be assigned a numerical identifier in accordance with the order in which the client registers in the animal identification and security system. After the client's state and county of residence or location is determined as well as the client's ranch/farm identifier at step 34 the type, number in the owner's herd/flock, and country of origin of the animal to be marked is determined at

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step 36. The client indicia (first coded indicia) and the animal indicia (second coded indicia) are then stored in memory in a paired relationship for uniquely identifying the owner as well as the animal being marked at step 38. At step 40, the client indicia and animal indicia are permanently applied to the marker to be attached to the animal. The marker is then attached to the animal at step 42 as described below and the client indicia and animal indicia assigned to that specific animal are made available on a global information network for worldwide dissemination at step 44.